

**IN THE CLAIMS**

The following is a complete listing of the claims which replace any prior versions:

1 1-39. (Canceled)

1 40. (New) A method for providing precise control of a magnetic coupling field in  
2 a NiMn top spin valve head, comprising:  
3 forming a copper seed layer on a substrate;  
4 forming a free layer on the copper seed layer;  
5 forming a non-ferromagnetic layer on the free layer;  
6 forming a copper spacer layer on the non-ferromagnetic layer;  
7 forming a pinned ferromagnetic layer on the copper spacer layer; and  
8 forming a NiMn pinning layer over the pinned ferromagnetic layer;  
9 wherein the copper seed layer and copper spacer layer are oxidized separately during  
10 formation.

1 41. (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the forming the copper seed layer  
2 comprises depositing a layer of copper as a seed layer and, before depositing a next layer,  
3 oxidizing the copper seed layer.

1 42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the forming the copper spacer layer  
2 comprises depositing a layer of copper as a spacer layer and, before depositing a next layer,  
3 oxidizing the copper spacer layer.

1           43.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the forming the copper spacer layer  
2 comprises depositing a layer of copper as a spacer layer and, before depositing a next layer,  
3 oxidizing the copper spacer layer.

1           44.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the copper seed layer and oxidized  
2 spacer layer are naturally oxidized for 80 seconds under  $8 \times 10^{-5}$  Torr of oxygen pressure.

1           45.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oxidized copper seed layer and  
2 oxidized spacer layer reduce the ferromagnetic coupling field without deteriorating GMR  
3 effect or resistance.

1           46.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oxidized copper seed layer and  
2 oxidized spacer layer provide a negative coupling field without affecting GMR effect or  
3 resistance.

1           47.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oxidized copper seed layer and  
2 oxidized spacer layer change the crystalline texture growth of subsequent layers.

1           48.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oxidized copper seed layer and  
2 oxidized spacer layer provide a negative coupling field that is achieved without affecting a  
3 GMR effect or resistance of the NiMn top spin valve head.

1           49.     (New) The method of claim 48, wherein the oxidized copper seed layer and  
2 oxidized spacer layer provide stronger growth of NiFe(111) and NiMn(111) with respect to  
3 NiFe(200) and NiMn(002) phases.

1           50.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oxidized copper seed layer and  
2     oxidized spacer layer improve the interfacial roughness.

1           51.     (New) The method of claim 40, wherein the oxidation of the copper seed  
2     layer and spacer layer does not affect asymmetry performance.